

What is College Effort?

Background

DSPS programs receive state funds based on the number of students served and types of disabilities these students have. These state funds are intended to cover the costs for providing academic adjustments, auxiliary aids, services and/or instruction. Absent DSPS funds, the costs of providing and arranging for these services shift to the college/district. This means that the college/district is required to cover those expenses for provision of services if the DSPS allocation cannot meet the demand.

What is College Effort?

The DSPS allocation formula is based on several components, including College Effort. The Chancellor's Office sets aside funds for contracts, COLA and growth adjustments, and the remaining DSPS funds are split 80% allocation by weighted student count and 20% College Effort. The 20% College Effort is distributed proportionately to the colleges in districts that show College Effort for the prior year. The allowable and non-allowable costs described in Sections [56064](#) and [56068](#) of Title 5 determine what is counted as College Effort so it is important to understand these Title 5 sections.

To qualify for College Effort, colleges/districts must use general unrestricted funds to pay for the expense. Some college/districts provide a substantial amount of these funds to support DSPS activities, others, very little to none. In 2017-2018, many colleges contributed so much total college effort, the Chancellor's Office was authorized to reimburse colleges/districts for their college effort at a rate of about 30 cents per dollar in 2017-2018.

What College Effort is not...

College Effort is not a match of the DSPS allocation. At this time, only the DHH funds have a match requirement in DSPS for specific costs related to services for students that are deaf or hard of hearing. While other categorical programs have a match requirement (SSSP, Student Equity, EOPS, etc.), there is none required for the DSPS allocation.

College Effort is not the FTES revenue that your educational assistance classes (formerly called special classes) generate. Title 5 Section [56070](#) requires those funds to be spent on students with disabilities and they are counted as DSPS revenue at established ratios, which must be spent first.

How do you know what counts for College Effort?

Do you know why the college paying for an Adapted Physical Education instructor is College Effort yet paying to clean the DSPS offices is not?

Think of things you provide for your program, such as an LD Specialist's salary, or an upgraded T1 line for remote interpreting, or new computers in the HTC. If you or the college paid for any of those with unrestricted college general funds, it is an example of College Effort. On the other hand, when the college builds a new stadium with many accessible seats, it does not count as College Effort because it is the college's responsibility under Section 504 to provide access to activities.

So, bottom line, College Effort is the total amount of *unrestricted college general funds* spent to pay for *DSPS allowable expenses*.

Many times it will take a lot of work by coordinators and directors to ensure the college/district understands that if DSPS runs out of funds that does not mean that DSPS allowable services stop. There is no cap on services. Under the ADA and Section 504 accommodations must be provided to a qualified student with disabilities.

Since the inception of DSPS funds, college effort of 10% has been part of the DSPS allocation. Now, it may be increased up to 20% thereby hoping to give back to the colleges additional cents on the dollar, encouraging colleges/districts to contribute more unrestricted college general fund dollars to the overall DSPS funding.

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